



Aperila 2023 | Lolomiga 009

TAPUITEA

The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government

IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA

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ASTCA Launches Parental Control Services

The increase of explicit, disturbing, and illegal websites and applications are threatening our community. ASTCA is pleased to equip families, schools, churches, and businesses with an online **parental control service**. The goal is to empower and partner with schools and families to keep the children of American Samoa safe and healthy online.

ASTCA's Parental Control service has the following features:

- Wi-Fi access control
- App approval and monitoring
- Screen time management
- Content filtering- Parents can block all sites with adult content
- Notifications of cyber security attempts including the location and time
- Ransomware protection
- Available on ASTCA mobile app

The rapid advancements in technology present new and difficult challenges for any parent



church leader, and community to address. ASTCA CEO Chuck Leota shares that “As a father of four young children, I know how difficult it is to shield our loved ones from harmful internet content. Our team also knows that the world is changing, and everything must be done to safeguard our children from harmful content and better protect our home and business networks from cyber attacks.”

ASTCA knows that home is where the heart is – and they are committed to fulfill their part in helping the community with online safety.

For more information, please call 699-3000 and ask for the Sales department or email sales@astca.net.

Know Your Family is Safe at any time.

Access Road Improvement Project Continues Under Lemanu-Talauega Administration

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration, since coming into office, has made strides in improving existing access roads. These include Fagali'i, Poloa, Afono, Vatia, Mapusaga, Tafeta, Vaitogi, Kanana Fou, among others.

On Tuesday, April 26th, a dedication ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of yet another road project. This project includes the resurfacing of existing asphalt roads which provide access to Leone High School and Leone Midkiff Elementary School. Total length of paved road is Ten Thousand Four Hundred Fifty linear feet (10,450'), approximately two (2) miles. Width of the paving varies from sixteen feet (16') to twenty feet (20'). This project consists the following:

- Roadway Excavation/Milling
- Preparation of Subgrade
- Asphalt Concrete Pavement Resurfacing
- Drainage
- Speed Humps
- Stripping



Contracted to Paramount Builders Incorporated, the Project Management Team included the Civil Highway Division of the Department of Public Works, under the supervision of Chief Engineer Rueben Siatu'u. The Management Team are as follows:

- Design Engineer: Dympna, Pangilinan, CE
- Project Engineer: Uaealesi D. Sipeli'i, CE
- Project Manager: Alofa Tanuvasa
- Project Inspector(s): Malouamaua Ino and Geroge Tue

“Since the beginning of this administration, it has been our priority to improve the quality of roads for the safety and accessibility of our people, especially our youth,” remarked Governor Lemanu at the dedication ceremony. He continued, “Improving these access roads is a continued partnership between the government and community. I commend all that have come together to make this vision into a reality, and continue to prioritize our youth.”

Under the Department of Education funding, the total cost of the road project totaled to \$4 million.

American Samoa joins Independent Samoa in Honoring of ANZAC Day

The Honorable Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa and Minister of Customs and Revenue, who is the President of the Returned Servicemen Association (RSA) extended the invitation to the Governor of American Samoa, Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, a retired United States Army veteran Major, to attend the Australia & New Zealand Army Corp (ANZAC) in Samoa and honor the heroes who fought for our peace and freedom. A delegation from American Samoa Veterans of the United States Military led by the American Samoa Government Chief of Staff also a retired U.S. Army Major Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, joined Samoa Government leaders, the diplomatic corps, disciplined forces representatives, and foreign dignitaries at the ANZAC Day dawn memorial service on Beach Road, Apia, Samoa. The delegation consisted of veterans of the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Navy.

The annual ANZAC Day memorial service commenced with a parade by war veterans from Samoa, American Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia. The official ceremony was held around the Town Clock war memorial in Apia. Retired US Marine Sergeant Major (SgtMaj) Palaita Tusipasi who served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) for more than 30 years shared that it was the



first time the American Samoa U.S. veterans participated in the celebration of the ANZAC Day celebrations in Apia, in many years.

“It was an opportunity to be a part of a prestigious event celebrating the service, sacrifice, and legacy of our forefathers who fought alongside Pasefika warriors in past wars. The services rendered by soldiers and servicemen of any country is considered the highest honor, especially at the risk of not returning to their loved ones,” said retired SgtMaj Tusipasi.

The Prime Minister of Samoa (PM), Honorable Fiame Naomi Mataafa, delivered the keynote address and she reminded the audience that the ANZAC celebration was not for glorification, but for solemn reflection and to remind us of peace. “We must not forget how the peace and freedoms we enjoy were won on all fronts and the magnanimity of the sacrifices made,” shared PM Mataafa. “While the ANZAC legend was born on the shores of a country far from our own, it has become part of our shared histories. ANZAC Day reminds us of the close and enduring links between Samoa and its Pacific neighbors working in close cooperation and collaboration to ensure that we can co-exist in a region of peace, security, and stability,” PM Mata’afa.

PM Mataafa acknowledged the contingent of war veterans from American Samoa and thanked the delegation for joining Samoa in honoring the legacy of our Pasefika warriors.

Kraft-Heinz Seeks Talented Candidates for Production Team



[PICTORIAL] On Thursday, April 13, 2023, the American Samoa Government office staff met with representatives from the Kirksville, Kraft-Heinz company to promote employment opportunities and discuss benefits for potential employees. The partnership involves the sharing of information regarding the available job positions, as well as assistance with the application and recruitment processes. The collaboration is part of the Government's ongoing efforts to provide employment opportunities under the Lou Lumana'i pillar of the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program (SHIP) for the Samoan Community in Hawai'i. Kraft-Heinz is one of the world's largest food and beverage companies and is widely known for creating

a positive work environment and fostering growth for its employees. The company offers a relocation package that includes medical, dental and vision benefits and a \$2,000 retention bonus. Additionally, candidates will receive a \$500 VISA Gift card and will enroll in a community assistance course at Truman State University. The starting pay is \$22.00 per hour, with the possibility of career advancement opportunities. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in the food industry and looking to pursue a long-term career with an established company. The Kraft-Heinz company representatives are looking forward to meeting exceptional individuals interested in joining their team.

eager to learn more about the government's plans for the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program. During the presentation, Dr. Afu Lefaoeseu shared details on the upcoming heritage events and programs including the Cricket Tournament Opening Ceremony, the Pearl Harbor Bike Path Community Clean up, the Veterans PACT ACT Sign up and Health Fair, and a Golf Tournament.

Officials stressed the importance of community involvement and participation in cultural games for program growth and progress. ASG-HI is also accepting applications for the E Lelei Le Alofa o le Atua (E.L.L.A) Scholarship under the Lou Lumana'i pillar of the Samoan Heritage Initiative and is available for download on their website at www.shipasghi.org, the deadline for applications is June 2, 2023. In addition, ASG-HI continues to partner with organizations providing resources to better equip our people. Representatives from Kraft Heinz were invited to present a job opportunity for anyone interested in relocating to work for their plant in Kirksville, Missouri. The relocation package includes medical, dental & vision benefits, 4 months of free housing, food allowance, transportation to Missouri and transportation to work, and a \$500 VISA gift card on the day of arrival.

As part of their initiative, participants will enroll in a 1 credit community assistance course at Truman State University

Voices United: Monthly Open Forum for the Samoan Community

On Thursday, April 13, 2023 The American Samoa Government- Hawai'i (ASG-HI) office hosted the monthly Town Hall meeting to engage with the local community and share information about upcoming events and a job

opportunity for anyone interested in relocating to work in Kirksville, MO. The meeting was held at the Kanana Fou Hall in Kunia. In attendance were local members of the Samoan community, youth leaders, and local church leaders

to familiarize them with the area and ease transition to the community.

Following the presentation, representatives gave out swag bags to members of the Samoan community, the gesture was well received and appreciated by those in attendance. For more information about this hiring event visit careers.kraftheinz.com or contact Filomina Bruton at filomina.bruton@kraftheinz.com. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the officials, making for an interactive and engaging experience. The town hall meeting was just one of many ways the government is working to connect with the community and stay informed on community needs.



Hawaii- Samoan Local Community Celebrates Earth Day in Beautification Initiative

The Samoan Community came together to participate in a Community Clean Up event at the Pearl Harbor Bike Path on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Volunteers collected waste and debris from the bike path and its surrounding areas. Pastor Headrick Hunkin arranged for volunteers to work in different areas, ensuring maximum coverage and efficiency. The Community Clean up initiative is an excellent opportunity for the community members to give back to the state of Hawai'i and the land we live on. Not only does it improve the Path's appearance and safety, but it also supports the broader health and wellness initiative. Studies have shown that spending time in natural environments and engaging in outdoor activities can have tremendous health benefits, including reducing stress levels and improving overall well-being.

The event promoted physical activity and community engagement, both of which are essential components of a healthy lifestyle. "We are proud of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by everyone who came out in support of Earth Day and our Community.," said Janina Palea'ae. "It's through collaboration and cooperation that we can make a lasting impact and create a brighter future for our community." Together we can make a difference, and we hope that this event inspires others to join forces and create positive change in their communities.



Samoan Heritage Initiative Program Festival Kicks Off with a Cricket Tournament



The Samoan Heritage Initiative Program (SHIP) festivities officially launched today with the start of the Cricket Tournament held at Ke'ehi Lagoon Park. The Cricket Tournament, aimed at promoting Health and Wellness, brought together community members to celebrate the long standing initiative to perpetuate the Samoan Culture and cheer on their favorite teams. It also provides a chance for players to showcase their skills and experience the game, and for spectators to witness the excitement of this dynamic game.

In attendance were Reverend Malaeotofiga Levaula, Hawai'i Methodist SEA Reverend Elder Koneferenisi Nu'usa, American Samoa Government (ASG) representative Tavita Amani Savea, American Samoa Government-Hawai'i (ASG-HI) staff and local members of the community.

Guests and players were welcomed by SHIP Sports Chairman Kesimale Fano, following the

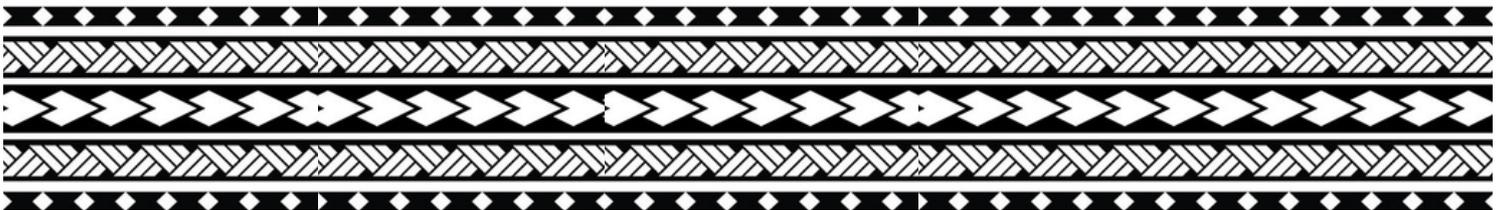
welcoming remarks, Pastor Malaeotofiga Levaula led an invocation and shared a scripture from Lamentations 3:22. The moving scripture spoke to the importance of knowing that the steadfast love of the Lord is unchanging and everlasting; available to all who seek it. He reminded us that God's love is eternal. "Your identity lies within your Heritage." said Levaula. "Ua ta'oto le fa'asinomaga ma lau Aganu'u." Our lands are a Heritage from God to our ancestors. We are a heritage to the Lord and he is mindful of each and every one of us. "Regardless of how far we've traveled from Samoa, may we always remember our identity; who we are as a people and value our Health (Soifua Maloloina), the future (Lumana'i), our Language (Gagana), and our Culture (Aganu'u)." Reverend Levaula expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all who played a vital role in making the tournament a success. He ended his speech with a reminder for everyone to

remain humble and refrain from being quick to anger. American Samoa Government representative Tavita Savea and Reverend Elder Koneferenisi Nu'usa also shared a few words of encouragement to all the Teams. The inaugural ball was hit by the Hawai'i Methodist SEA Koneferenisi Nu'usa signifying the start of the Tournament.

The Tournament brought together 8 teams to compete for the trophy. This initiative is being supported by a range of sponsors, including prominent businesses and entrepreneurs.

Contributions will help the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program organize and fund several health and wellness programs and workshops for the Samoan Community. According to the SHIP Sports Chairman Kesimale Fano, "We are thrilled to be organizing this tournament, as it

embodies our commitment to the well-being of our people. We believe that through community engagement in sports, we can help address some of the long standing health concerns in our community."



Lemanu-Talauega Administration Prepares for Swains Flag Day



The American Samoa Government deployed a thirty three man team led by Representative Su'a Alex Eli Jennings on a two hundred mile journey to the Swains Island. The team departed the service wharf in Fagatogo after careful review of the manifest and safety briefings from the Department of Port Administration Deputy Director Tumua Matu'u and her team. The Team consists of 6 members from the Department of Health including Dr. Ronald Yip, 3 members from the American Samoa Telecommunication (ASTCA) who will be on the island to set-up a Command post and communication center for the advance party. A three man team from the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) who's main objective is to power the facilities extracted to be utilized during the assignment, and an 8 man team from the Department of Public works to assist with the clearing of the designated location during the assignment. The team is being transported by the Manu'atele and a 14 man crew from the Department of Port Administration.

Representative Jennings also has his team who have experience on the voyage and also have frequented the Swains Island. The Advance party will be joined by Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga and his party of expeditioners in Swains Island, departing American Samoa on the 11th of May, 2023.

Swains Island, also known as Olohenga, is a very small atoll, calculated to be 373 acres, is considered part of American Samoa. The Island is geologically of the Tokelau Volcanic Island Group, but is owned by the Jennings family and administered by the United States of America. The Island is located approximately 200 miles north of American Samoa and part of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, which is protected by both territorial and federal water/laws.

More to come of this coverage of The Swains Island Expedition

Flag Day Flashback

American Samoa Flag Day celebrations require months of planning and preparation. The entertainers that are invited to participate prepare music and dances for two to three months. The *aumaga* or men of the villages that participate in the *fautasi* race start training in January. The American Samoa Government departments and agencies that are assigned to decorations and logistics start executing a month before Flag Day.

The various events in the Flag Day celebration bring the community together. The unity and joy of the people of American Samoa reflect our appreciation to our forefathers who foresaw the benefits and the future success of becoming a territory of the United States of America. Happy Flag Day, Amerika Samoa!













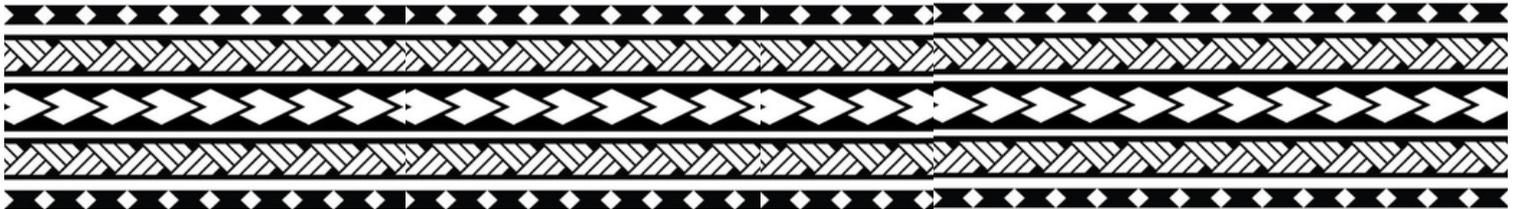




In the Community



Marist Flag Day International Rugby 7s- April 21-22, 2023. Governor Lemanu gave his special remarks on the last day of the tournament. The Marist St. Joseph Samoa took first place and Tepatasi from Aleipata came in 2nd. [Photo Credit: M3LO visuals]



On April 29, 2023, the Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago gathered to welcome Bishop Etuale Tumanuvao and bid farewell to Bishop Peter Hugh Brown, c.Ss.R. Lt. Governor Ale, Good lady, Congresswoman Amata, and few government leaders attended the service. [Video/Photo Credit: KVZK TV]



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APRIL PROCLAMATIONS

Child Abuse Prevention Month

123rd American Samoa Flag Day

American Samoa Medical Lab
Professionals Week

2023 Boating Week

APRIL EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Establishing Broadband Coordination
(repealing EO 006-2023)

Establishing American Samoa Innovation
Authority

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 01-05 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 07-12 Nurse Appreciation Week

May 14-20 Public Safety Week